

THE
Annual Reports

FOR **1905** OF THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Urban & Rural Sanitary Districts

OF

TAUNTON.

BY

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., Lond., F.I.C., &c.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TAUNTON :

E. GOODMAN AND SON, PHOENIX PRINTING WORKS, NORTH STREET.

1906.



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TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health, for the Year 1905.

Population of Borough (1901)	...	...	21,087
Estimated Population to middle of 1905	...	...	21,647
Area in Statute Acres	...	...	1,438
Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population	...	...	23·7
Death-rate per 1,000 of Population	...	...	14·1
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	0·1
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births	...	...	100·9

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Taunton.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report of the health of the Town during the year 1905.

The year has been a healthy one, and will compare favourably with former years.

1. Mortality during 1905.

The total Deaths during the year were 306, or at the rate of 14·1 per 1,000 of the population.

The average Death-rate of the preceding ten years was 16·5 per 1,000.

From these 306 Deaths, however, must be deducted 41 non-residents who died in Public Institutions, and reduce the number to 265. But 8 residents of the Borough died outside the District, viz., 7 in Cotford Asylum, and 1 in the Isolation Hospital.

When these are added to 265, the total is 273, which gives a nett Death-rate of 12·6 per 1,000.

LOCALITIES.

The 306 Deaths occurred, in the

Borough	230
Taunton and Somerset Hospital ...	55
Union Workhouse	21
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	306

SEXES.

Of the 306 Deaths, 156 were Males, and 150 Females.

AGES AT DEATH.

The Deaths occurred at the following ages:—

Under 1 year	52
1 to 5 years	10
5 to 15 „	9
15 to 25 „	21
25 to 65 „	104
Over 65 „	110
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	306

Deaths in Public Institutions.

There were 76 Deaths in Public Institutions, viz., 55 in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, and 21 in the Union Workhouse.

The residents and non-residents were as follows:—

1. TAUNTON AND SOMERSET HOSPITAL.

Urban cases	...	...	...	...	21
Rural „	...	...	...	...	8
Non-residents from outside both Districts					26
					—
					55

2. UNION WORKHOUSE.

Urban cases	...	...	...	...	14
Rural „	...	..	...	...	7
					—
					21

Causes of Death.

1. ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

There were only 3 Deaths from Zymotic Disease during the year, 2 from Diphtheria, and 1 from Whooping Cough.

This is remarkably low, and compares most favourably with former years.

Seeing that these Diseases are to a great extent preventable, and that their existence and mortality is largely due to insanitary conditions, it follows that a low Death-rate from them is proof of a greatly improved sanitary condition of things.

The Zymotic Death-rate for 1905 was only 0·1, the average of the preceding ten years was 1·5.

DEATHS FROM OTHER DISEASES.

The other chief causes of Death were :—

Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	24
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	13
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	26
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	28
Cancer	...	...	...	...	28
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	3
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1
Accidents	...	...	...	...	8
Premature Births	...	...	...	...	16

Births during 1905.

The total Births were 515, or at the rate of 23·7 per 1,000.

The average of the preceding ten years was 26·6 per 1,000.

Infantile Mortality.

The number of Deaths of Infants under one year of age was 52, the rate per 1,000 Births being 100·9.

The average of the preceding ten years was 140·5.

Sickness during 1905.

I. NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

I received 88 Notifications of Infectious Diseases during the year. They were as follows :—

Small Pox	...	...	...	2 cases
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	64 „
Diphtheria	...	...	...	9 „
Erysipelas	...	...	...	12 „
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	1 case

88

Of these 88 cases, 65 were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

2. SICKNESS DURING 1905.

Scarlet Fever which had been so prevalent during 1904, continued to be so during the early part of 1905, but gradually subsided after the first month of the year.

Comparatively few cases of Diphtheria occurred. One, which ended fatally, was in a travelling Caravan.

Two cases of Small Pox occurred, but owing to early and complete isolation the disease did not spread. The first case was a man who worked on the new Railway which is being made between Langport and Castle Carey. He was at once removed to the Isolation Hospital, and the other members of his family were revaccinated. A son, aged 17 years, had been in the House with him two days previous to his removal and then went into Devonshire. The fact of his existence was kept both from the Medical Attendant and me. After a fortnight's absence he was sent home ill, and it was found that he too had Small Pox. He was removed to Hospital, and no fresh case occurred.

A large number of cases, however, occurred amongst navvies working on the line in the Langport District.

3. DISINFECTION.

This has been freely carried out during the year.

No less than 3,155 articles of Bedding and Clothing were disinfected at the Steam Disinfector, and all Houses in which Infectious Diseases occurred were disinfected with formaldehyde.

Whilst on the subject of Disinfection I may mention that to prevent the spread of disease, steps have been taken to acquaint the Librarian of the Free Library (which was opened in August last), of the name and address of every notified case of Infectious Disease.

This will prevent any Books going to Infected Houses, or if there, will insure their return to the Sanitary Officer instead of to the Library.

I need not insist on the importance of this being done.

4. SANITARY CONDITION OF DWELLINGS.

Your Inspector inspected 1,364 Houses during the year.

93 Notices were served for cleansing and repairing of Houses and premises, and 309 were cleansed, repaired, and limewashed.

House Drains were tested in 318 cases, and 257 had to be repaired.

23 Soil Pipes required repair. 463 Water Closets required repairing, 6 to be supplied with water, and 8 new ones provided.

5. NUISANCES.

Besides these matters, 290 cases of dust removal, 36 cases of accumulation of filth, and 57 animals removed came under notice.

Details of them all will be found in the Report of your Inspector, W. Northcombe, which is appended to this Report.

6. WATER SUPPLY.

The chief event of the year was the public opening by the Mayor (Josiah Lewis, Esq.) of the New Luxhay Reservoir.

This occurred on Wednesday, June 28th, an ideal summer day.

The Reservoir is beautifully situated, and when filled will be an immense boon. Containing as it does 120 million gallons, a constant supply will be ensured.

The want of storage space in the past has prevented this. Water has often run to waste in large quantities, which would have been saved had there been means for storing it.

The dimensions of this Reservoir are as follows:—

Depth	...	...	...	...	57 feet.
Area	...	...	...	...	18 acres.

The storage of the three Reservoirs when full are as follows:—

Blagdon	...	...	8 million gallons.
Leigh	...	...	30 „ „
Luxhay	...	...	120 „ „
Total			158

I have presented a Quarterly Report to your Water Committee, giving an analysis of the water, and it maintains its good qualities, purity for drinking, and softness for washing purposes.

The new Filters at Fulwood are nearing completion.

When in working order we may hope to have the water always bright and clear, a slight opacity, especially after rain, being its only fault.

7. DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

The number is the same as last year, viz., 42, and they have been periodically inspected and found satisfactory.

8. BAKEHOUSES.

The 30 Bakehouses in the town have also been looked after, and are in a sanitary condition.

9. SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These have been regularly inspected. They are 10 in number. Some trouble arose about the sanitary condition of one, but it has been much improved.

10. FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORK-PLACES.

The number of Inspections made during the year was as follows:—

Factories	...	...	...	...	54
Workshops	...	...	...	...	418
Work-places	...	...	...	...	77

Three written notices were served in the case of Factories.

The defects found under the Public Health Act were 15, and all were remedied. The sanitary accommodation in one was defective and was also remedied.

Action was taken in 7 cases where referred to by H. M. Inspector in matters remediable under the Public Health Act, but not under the Factory Act.

HOME-WORK.

16 Lists were received of Out-workers, the number of which were 176.

In 2 cases infectious disease was notified in Home-workers' houses.

WORKSHOPS ON THE REGISTER AT THE END OF 1905.

These were :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	31
Dressmakers	...	...	...	...	25
Tailors	...	...	...	...	15
Milliners	...	...	...	...	12
Other Classes	...	...	...	...	112
Total					195

Meteorology of 1905.

The total Rainfall for the year was much below the average, amounting only to 21·45 inches.

Although it fell on 144 days on five months of the year, January, February, April, June, and December, the amount was under 1 inch per month.

The hours of sunshine in the year were 1,430, much above that of the preceding years.

The mean height of the Barometer, and the mean temperature were both above the average.

Full particulars will be found in the Meteorological Report which follows :—

The Reports required by the Local Government Board are also appended, as is that of the Inspector of Nuisances (Mr. Northcombe).

The Local Government Board have furnished a fifth Report to be filled up this year.

The Infantile Mortality in this country is very high, and to gather statistics and to endeavour to elucidate the causes, a table is provided which gives the ages at Death (1) weekly to one month, and (2) monthly to one year, from the chief Diseases causing Infantile Death.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., LOND.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I. TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1905 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.					Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under One Year of Age.		At all Ages.						Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*						
								5						6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1895	18,590	576	30.0	70	121.0	288	15.4	70	36	—	—	—	
1896	19,831	632	31.9	92	145.0	336	16.9	85	38	—	—	—	
1897	19,972	558	27.9	90	150.0	359	15.9	89	41	1	—	—	
1898	20,113	544	27.0	65	119.4	302	15.0	73	31	3	—	—	
1899	20,254	562	28.7	110	189.0	388	19.1	89	30	2	—	—	
1900	20,395	535	26.2	84	157.0	427	19.2	77	46	8	389	19.2	
1901	21,078	502	23.8	68	135.4	335	14.2	80	41	7	301	14.2	
1902	21,227	488	22.9	64	131.1	353	16.6	94	45	12	320	15.0	
1903	21,367	532	24.8	85	159.7	380	17.7	63	26	9	363	16.9	
1904	21,516	503	23.3	49	97.7	340	15.8	96	44	19	331	15.3	
Averages for years 1895-1904	20,434	543	26.6	77	140.5	352	16.5	81	37	7	340	16.1	
1905	21,647	515	23.7	52	100.9	306	14.1	76	41	8	273	12.6	

*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)...	1,435	Total population at all ages ...	...	21,078			
					Number of inhabited houses...	...	4,514
					Average number of persons per house	...	5

At Census of 1901.

TABLE II.

Taunton Urban Sanitary District.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1905
and previous years.

YEAR.	TAUNTON REGISTRATION DISTRICT.			
	Population Estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under One Year.
1895	18,590	576	288	70
1896	19,831	632	336	92
1897	19,972	558	359	90
1898	20,113	544	302	65
1899	20,254	562	388	110
1900	20,395	535	427	84
1901	21,078	502	335	68
1902	21,227	488	353	64
1903	21,367	532	380	85
1904	21,516	503	340	49
1905	21,647	515	306	52

TABLE III.

Taunton Urban Sanitary District.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1905.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.								No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each locality.
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox	2	...	...	..	1	1	...	2
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	9	...	1	4	2	2	...	6	
Membranous croup	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Erysipelas	12	1	...	1	1	6	3	...	
Scarlet fever ...	64	...	12	35	9	8	...	57	
Typhus fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ...	1	..	...	...	1	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	88	1	13	40	14	17	3	65	

TABLE IV.

TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year, 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox ...	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Measles ...	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Scarlet fever ...	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Whooping-cough ...	1	1	::	::	::	::	::	::
Diphtheria and membranous croup ...	2	...	1	1	::	::	::	1
Croup ...	1	...	1	::	::	::	::	::
Fever { Typhus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other continued ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza ...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ...	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Other septic diseases ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis) ...	26	...	...	...	6	12	8	6
Other tubercular diseases... 3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer, malignant disease 28	...	1	1	1	17	8	7	...
Bronchitis ... 24	2	1	...	...	4	17	...	...
Pneumonia ... 13	4	1	...	1	4	3	1	...
Pleurisy ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of respira- tory organs ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism ... } 6	...	...	...	...	6	...	2	...
Cirrhosis of liver ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Venereal diseases ... 1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Premature birth ... 16	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases... 28	...	...	...	1	14	13	6	...
Accidents ... 8	1	2	...	1	3	1	5	...
Suicides ... 2	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...
All other causes ... 140	22	2	6	11	41	58	44	...
All causes ...	306	52	10	9	21	104	110	76

TABLE V. TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1905.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total under 1 Year.
All causes.	Certified	20	6	4	1	31	4	2	1	2	2	..	2	1	4	2	1	52
	Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Chicken-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Diphtheria: croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Whooping-cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	Diarrhoea (all forms)...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Enteritis (not tuberculous)	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal catarrh	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
	Premature birth	..	..	2	1	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Wasting Diseases.	Congenital defects	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	Injury at birth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Want of breast-milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Atrophy, debility, marasmus	1	3	2	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	6
Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuberculous meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
	Tuberculous peritonitis: tabes mesenterica	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	Other tuberculous diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
	Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rickets...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Meningitis (not tuberculous)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Convulsions	1	1	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	4
	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
	Laryngitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Wasting Diseases.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
	Suffocation, overlaying	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
	Other causes	4	1	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
		20	6	4	1	31	4	2	1	2	2	..	2	1	4	2	1	52

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE, 1905.

MONTH.	Barometer.			Thermometer.			Sunshine.		Rainfall.	
	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Hours.	Sunless Days.	Inches.	Days Rain fell.
January ...	30.21	30.92	29.19	39.7°	55°	22°	81	9	.77	8
February ...	30.00	30.50	29.16	43.3°	55°	25°	83	6	.81	10
March ...	29.67	30.27	28.80	45.5°	61°	27°	95	4	3.74	11
April ...	29.86	30.24	29.21	48.0°	59°	33°	71	11	2.15	16
May ...	30.04	30.40	29.31	52.5°	71°	32°	245.5	3	.20	4
June ...	29.91	30.37	29.62	59.4°	80°	43°	138.0	9	3.60	15
July ...	30.03	30.26	29.81	64.5°	80°	47°	195	1	.38	7
August ...	29.86	30.29	29.31	60.1°	75°	43°	163.5	2	3.76	20
September ...	29.95	30.30	29.53	56.0°	72°	37°	137	2	1.49	13
October ...	30.01	30.45	29.19	46.7°	60°	26°	91.5	4	1.18	11
November ...	29.96	30.13	28.94	41.6°	54°	24°	80.5	9	3.67	18
December ...	30.18	30.82	29.30	42.2°	53°	26°	49	15	.70	11

TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Inspector of Nuisances' Report of the Sanitary Work completed in the Year 1905 (J. W. Northcombe, certified Inspector).

Number of Complaints to Sanitary Officer ...					...	...	66	
Number of Inspections, House to House, Premises, &c.					...	...	1,364	
,, Re-Inspections of Houses, Premises, &c.					...	...	
Results of Inspection.	Orders issued for Sanitary Amendments of Houses, Premises, &c.					}	93		
	Houses, Premises, &c., Cleaned, Repaired, Lime-washed, &c.								
	Houses Disinfected after Illness of an Infectious Character					127			
	Drains Tested with Smoke Test					...	...	318
	Pollution of Stream					...	...	1
Drains (House).	Soil Pipes Repaired and Renewed					...	...	23
	Repaired, Cleansed, Trapped, &c.					...	...	257
Water Closets	Repaired					...	...	463
	Supplied with Water					..	...	6
	New Provided					...	...	8
Dust Bins.	Repaired, Covered, &c.					...	...	5
Water Supply.	Main Draw-off Taps fixed					...	...	1
	Cisterns Cleaned, Repaired, Covered, &c.					...	...	2
	Houses Supplied with Corporation Water					...	...	1
	Wells unfit for Use and Condemned					...	...	1
Miscellaneous.	Number of Lodging Houses Registered					...	...	3
	Dust Removal. Number of Communications received and attended to					...	...	} 290
	Removal of Accumulation of Dung, Stagnant Water, Animal and other Refuse					...	...
	Animals Removed, being improperly kept					...	...	57
	Regularly Inspected.	Bakehouses					30
		Licensed Cowsheds					5
		Dairies and Milkshops, &c.					42
		Licensed Slaughter Houses					10
Articles of Bedding Disinfected at Steam Disinfector, Sewage Works							3,155		

TAUNTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health, for the Year 1905.

Population of District (1901) ...	...	...	17,565
Population estimated to middle of 1905	...	...	17,374
Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population	...	...	21
Death-rate per 1,000 of Population	...	...	14·6
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	0·5
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births	...	...	68·3

To the Taunton Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report of the Health of the District during the Year 1905.

Mortality during 1905.

The total Deaths in the District were 254, or at the rate of 14·6 per 1,000 of the population.

The average of the preceding ten years was 15·5 per 1,000.

These are the gross numbers. But 42 of the 254 occurred in Public Institutions in the District, viz.: 39 in Cotford Lunatic Asylum, and 3 in the Isolation Hospital.

Thirty-eight of these were non-residents, and should therefore be deducted from the total, reducing the number to 216.

But 15 residents of the District died in the Borough of Taunton, viz.: 8 in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, and 7 in the Union Workhouse.

If these 15 be added to 216, the net number of Deaths will be 231, making a Death-rate of 13·2 per 1,000.

LOCALITIES.

The 254 Deaths occurred in the following localities:—

1. Pitminster Registration District	...	52 deaths.
2. North Curry	„ „	81 „
3. Taunton (without)	„ „	19 „
4. Bishops Lydeard	„ „	60 „
5. Cotford Asylum	... ..	39 „
6. Isolation Hospital	... ..	3 „
Total		254 „

SEXES.

Of the 254, 117 were Males, and 137 Females.

AGES AT DEATH.

The various Ages at Death were:—

Under 1 year	...	25
1 to 5 years	...	11
5 to 15 „	...	7
15 to 25 „	...	13
25 to 65 „	...	74
Over 65 „	...	124
Total		254

Deaths in Public Institutions.

There were 42 Deaths in Public Institutions, viz.: 39 in Cotford Asylum, and 3 in the Isolation Hospital.

The localities from which the Patients came were as follows:—

1. COTFORD ASYLUM.

Taunton Rural Sanitary District	...	...	2
„ Urban „ „	...	...	7
Outside Districts	..	...	30
			—
Total	...	...	39

2. ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Taunton Rural Sanitary District	...	...	2
„ Urban „ „	...	...	1
			—
Total	...	...	3

Causes of Death.

1 ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

There were 10 Deaths due to Zymotic Diseases, viz.:

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	4
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	2
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	3

This gives a Zymotic Death-rate of 0·5. The average of the preceding ten years was 0·6.

2. DEATHS FROM OTHER CAUSES.

The other chief causes of Death were as follows:—

Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	33
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	14
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	..	...	...	...	15
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	18
Cancer	...	...	...	...	16
Eutvistis	...	...	...	...	3
Premature Births	...	...	...	...	3
Accidents	...	...	...	...	7

Births during 1905.

The total number of Births in the District during 1905 were 366, or at the rate of 21·0 per 1,000.

The average of the preceding ten years was 24·1 per 1,000.

The Infantile Death-rate, or Death-rate of Infants under one year of age to 1,000 Births, was 68·3. The average of the preceding ten years was 97·7.

The Births in the various Districts were as follows :—

1. Pitminster District	...	...	...	81
2. North Curry „	...	...	...	145
3. Taunton (without) District	...	...	...	51
4. Bishops Lydeard „	...	...	...	89
Total				366

Sickness during 1905.

1. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

I received during the year 81 Notifications of Infectious Disease as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	42 cases.
Diphtheria	...	..	...	22 „
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	6 „
Erysipelas	...	...	...	9 „
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	2 „
Total				81

These occurred in the following Districts :—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	Puer- peral Fever.	Total.
1. Pitminster	12	5	0	1	0	18
2. North Curry	6	13	2	4	0	25
3. Taunton (without)	7	3	0	0	0	10
4. Bishops Lydeard	17	1	4	4	2	28
Totals	42	22	6	9	2	81

I. SICKNESS.

As will be seen by the foregoing Tables, Scarlet Fever prevailed to some extent throughout the District. Diphtheria cases were also reported, but many of these cases were not cases of genuine Diphtheria.

The type of Scarlet Fever was of a mild kind.

The Enteric Fever cases were in the North Curry and Bishops Lydeard Districts.

Very insanitary surroundings were discovered in the two cases in the first-named District. The other 4 were in Cotford Asylum, and there is little doubt were introduced from outside the District.

2. WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply of Stoke St. Gregory has been discussed during the year.

The River Tone (which is here tidal) is the only source, and is not fit for dietetic use. Advances were made to both the Bridgwater and Langport Rural District Councils, who have good supplies at no great distance, asking them to provide water at a fixed rental, but so far the applications have been unsuccessful. This would be by far the cheapest and most satisfactory way of obtaining water, and it is to be hoped that before long it may be brought to a successful issue.

I have analysed waters from various parts of the District during the year, and in many cases it has been found polluted with Sewage. In all cases the necessary notices have been served, and steps taken to ensure a pure supply.

Sewerage and Drainage.

Works were carried out at Bishops Hull, under the advice of your Surveyor, to bring the Sewage of Mountway and the East End of the Village to one point.

The Drainage of many parts of the District has been greatly improved by the more general use of Pail Closets in place of the old-fashioned foul midden and cesspool.

The more frequent emptying of Cesspools is urgently needed in some cases, otherwise they overflow and create a great nuisance. Prompt action is required in these cases.

Nuisances.

Your Inspector (Mr. James), reports that he inspected 1,249 houses and premises during the year, and re-inspected 633.

571 Notices were served for the sanitary improvement of the same.

The number of house-drains dealt with was 85, and closets 117.

Accumulations of filth required 58 notices, and animals kept in an improper state were 16.

Eleven cases of overcrowding came under observation, and 4 houses were unfit for human habitation.

Mr. James's report is annexed to this, and the detailed figures of his work are there shewn.

Slaughter Houses.

These have slightly increased in number, there being now 32, as against 28 in 1904.

They have been frequently inspected, and this is absolutely necessary to ensure their being kept in a proper sanitary condition.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Your Inspector states he has inspected 33 of these.

The condition of many of them is not all that can be desired.

Their ventilation is generally sufficient, but the drainage is often deficient.

Constant inspection (especially at this time of the year), is necessary.

Factories and Workshops.

During the year 100 Workshops were inspected, 4 Work-places and 19 Home-workers' premises. No notices were required, and consequently no prosecutions. In fact no defects were found.

With regard to Home-work there was one list, which included 19 Out-workers.

The number of Bakehouses in the District was 23, other classes of Workshops were 27, and Work-places 2, making a total number of Workshops on the Register 52.

Five Tables accompany this Report as required by the Local Government Board, a fresh one being added this year which gives the record in detail of facts as to Infant Mortality. There is no doubt that this is abnormally high generally. But in this District, as I have already stated, it is considerably below the average of preceding years. The absence of any Deaths from Diarrhœa is also very satisfactory. Formerly this was always high, and was greatly due to the improper feeding of infants, and the insanitary surroundings of premises.

Taking a general survey, the year may be said to have been healthy, and the general sanitary condition of the District improving.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., LOND.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I. TAUNTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.					Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under One Year of Age.		At all Ages.						Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1895	18,569	501	27.0	43	85.8	264	14.2	7	6	—	—	—	
1896	18,448	505	27.0	55	108.9	290	15.7	5	5	22	—	—	
1897	17,287	503	29.0	40	79.5	256	14.2	4	3	25	—	—	
1898	17,220	456	26.4	53	116.5	293	17.0	2	1	29	—	—	
1899	17,165	439	25.5	43	97.9	304	17.7	27	23	20	—	—	
1900	17,104	464	27.1	47	101.2	300	17.5	42	21	22	283	16.6	
1901	17,565	382	21.8	51	128.2	286	16.9	38	33	30	234	13.3	
1902	17,515	384	21.8	31	80.7	243	13.8	39	36	27	237	13.5	
1903	17,465	368	20.0	36	97.7	267	15.4	42	39	14	228	13.0	
1904	17,415	354	20.3	23	65.0	244	14.1	38	37	25	228	13.2	
Average for years 1895-1904	17,575	435	24.5	42	96.1	274	15.6	24	20	23	242	13.9	
1905	17,374	366	20.1	25	68.3	254	14.6	42	38	15	231	13.2	

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)...	68,094	Total population at all ages	17,565	} At Census of 1901.
		Number of inhabited houses ...	...	3,938
		Average Number of Persons per house	...	4.46	

TABLE III. TAUNTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1905.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.			
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					Pitminster.	North Curry.	Taunton (without).	Bishop's Lydeard.	Pitminster.	North Curry.	Taunton (without).	Bishop's Lydeard.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.								
Small-pox...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria ..	22	..	4	13	2	3	5	13	2	2	3	2	1	1
Membranous croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	12	..	..	1	1	9	1	4	2	5	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever ..	42	..	9	26	4	3	12	6	7	17	10	3	7	16
Typhus fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever ..	6	..	..	..	2	3	..	2	..	4	..	..	..	..
Relapsing fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever ..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Plague ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	84	..	13	40	9	20	18	25	11	30	13	5	8	17

(H) Taunton Isolation Hospital, situated in the District of Taunton (Without), provided by Taunton Urban and Rural Councils.

(W) The Workhouse is in the Taunton Urban District.

TABLE IV.

TAUNTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).				DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All Ages.	Under 1	1 & under 5	5 & under 15	15 & under 25	25 & under 65	65 & upwards	¹ Pitminster.	² North Curry.	³ Taunton (without).	⁴ Bishop's Lydeard.	
Small-pox	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Measles	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Scarlet fever	1	::	::	1	::	::	::	::	::	1	::	1
Whooping-cough	2	1	1	::	::	::	::	1	::	::	1	::
Diphtheria and membranous croup ...	4	::	1	2	1	::	::	::	2	2	::	2
Croup	1	1	::	::	::	::	::	1	::	::	::	::
Fever { Typhus	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Enteric	3	::	::	::	1	2	::	::	1	::	2	2
Other continued ...	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Epidemic influenza ...	4	::	::	::	::	1	3	::	2	::	2	2
Cholera	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Plague	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Diarrhœa	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Enteritis	3	3	::	::	::	::	::	::	1	1	1	::
Puerperal fever	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Erysipelas	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Other septic diseases ...	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis)	18	1	::	1	4	10	2	2	5	::	11	4
Other tubercular diseases ...	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Cancer, malignant disease	16	::	::	::	::	7	9	3	10	2	1	::
Bronchitis	15	::	1	2	::	1	11	6	5	3	1	::
Pneumonia	14	1	2	::	::	6	5	4	5	::	5	2
Pleurisy	1	::	::	::	::	1	::	::	::	1	::	::
Other diseases of respiratory organs ...	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Alcoholism	3	::	::	::	::	3	::	3	::	::	::	::
Cirrhosis of liver } Venereal diseases	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Premature birth	3	3	::	::	::	::	::	1	1	::	1	::
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1	::	::	::	::	1	::	::	::	::	1	::
Heart diseases	33	1	::	1	1	9	21	4	14	1	14	1
Accidents	7	::	::	::	2	5	::	2	2	::	3	::
Suicides	1	::	::	::	::	1	::	::	1	::	::	::
All other causes	124	14	6	::	4	27	73	25	32	11	56	28
All causes	254	25	11	7	13	74	124	52	81	22	99	42

TABLE V. TAUNTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1905.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total under 1 Year.
All causes.	Certified	5	4	1	..	10	4	2	1	1	1	2	2	..	..	..	2	25
	Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Chicken-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Croup	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Whooping-cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
	Diarrhoea (all forms)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Enteritis (not tuberculous)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal catarrh	..	..	1	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
Wasting Diseases.	Premature birth	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
	Congenital defects	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Injury at Birth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Want of breast-milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Diseases	Atrophy, debility, marasmus	1	1	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
	Tuberculous meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Tuberculous peritonitis, tabes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	mesenterica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other tuberculous diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rickets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Meningitis (not tuberculous)	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
	Convulsions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Other causes	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Laryngitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	Suffocation, overlaying	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Other causes		1	1	..	..	2	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Total		5	4	1	..	10	4	2	1	1	1	2	2	..	..	..	2	25

TAUNTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT

Inspector of Nuisances' Report of the Sanitary Work completed in the Year 1905 (S. J. James, certified Inspector).

Number of Complaints to Sanitary Officer						85	
Number of Inspections, House to House, Premises, &c. ...						1,249	
,, Re-Inspections of Houses, Premises, &c....						633	
Results of Inspection.	Orders issued for Sanitary Amendments of Houses, Premises, &c.					} 571	
	Houses, Premises, &c., Cleaned, Repaired, Lime-washed, &c.						} 261
	Houses Disinfected after Illness of an Infectious Character					76	
	Drains Tested with Smoke Test					31	
	Pollution of Stream					6	
Drains (House).	Soil Pipes Repaired and Renewed					} 85	
	Repaired, Cleansed, Trapped, &c.						
Privies and Closets.	Repaired					} 117	
	Supplied with Water						
	New Provided						
Dust Bins.	Repaired, Covered, &c.						
Water Supply.	Samples of Water taken					45	
	Cisterns Cleaned, Repaired, Covered, &c.						
	Houses Supplied with Water					9	
	Wells Unfit for Use					17	
Miscellaneous.	Number of Lodging Houses Registered						
	Dust Removal. Number of Communications received and attended to					} 58	
	Removal of Accumulation of Dung, Stagnant Water, Animal and other Refuse						
	Animals Removed, being improperly kept					16	
	Regularly Inspected.	Bakehouses					23
		Licensed Cowsheds					} 33
		Dairies and Milkshops, &c.					
		Licensed Slaughter Houses					32
Houses Newly Built							

(834 articles of Bedding Disinfected at Chamber, Magdalene Street.)
Overcrowding, 11. Houses Unfit for Habitation, 4.

